

## Appendix I-2 TAHOE PROJECT PROPOSAL

**Project Name: Urban Lot Management – Hazardous Fuels Treatment** **EIP #: 10183.304**

**Lead Agency: USDA-Forest Service  
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
Threshold: Vegetation  
Threshold Standard: Hazard Fuels  
Reduction**

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Total Project Cost: \$ 545,000**

### **Project Description:**

Hazardous Fuels Reduction on urban intermix parcels (acquired under authority of the Santini-Burton Act) and urban interface lands.

This project is for initial treatment of fuels through thinning of trees and brush, chipping slash and pile burning. Most thinning will be done by hand, however equipment may be used over the snow or on dry ground where land capability and slope permit. Chipping slash will be preferred over burning when slash can easily be moved to a road that a chipper can access.

### **Describe the purpose and need for the project:**

The Forest Service has acquired over 3,200 urban parcels under authority of the Santini-Burton Act of December 23, 1980. The Santini-Burton Act authorized the Forest Service to acquire environmentally sensitive lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin to protect these lands from development. These acquired lands are to be managed by the Forest Service for their watershed and other environmental values. These parcels are randomly interspersed with privately developed urban parcels and parcels acquired by the states of California and Nevada. The parcels vary in size from a fraction of an acre to several hundred acres.

When the Urban Lot Environmental Assessment was prepared in 1995, the vegetative condition of most urban parcels could be characterized as poor. High tree mortality was causing a high risk to human life and property because of increased fire danger and hazardous trees. Many parcels contained refuse causing a visual nuisance, and in some cases pollution to soils and watersheds. Many parcels had areas of existing erosion, compacted/disturbed soils and unstable stream banks contributing to water quality degradation and loss of soil productivity. Very few parcels had been surveyed and needed property boundary identification and posting. There were numerous trespass cases of unauthorized use and occupancy on the parcels.

The Urban Lot Environmental Assessment considered three alternatives: 1 – no action, 2 – Fuels and Hazard Tree Reduction, 3 – Integrated Resource Management. On May 5, 1995, Forest Supervisor Robert Harris issued a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for implementation of alternative 3 – Integrated Resource Management. This decision called for the following actions:

Natural Resource Actions

Hazard Tree Removal, Stand Improvement through vegetation manipulation, Insect and Disease Management, Watershed and Soil Restoration, Improvement of Defensible Space – Compliance with State and Local ordinances, Fuels Management, and Wildlife Enhancement Projects

Real Estate Actions

Compliance with local ordinances and CC&R's, Landline Identification, Land Exchange and Transfer (subject to future analysis)

Law Enforcement Actions

Prevention and Resolution of Trespass, Reduction of Potential for Tort Claims, Refuse Disposal

**Describe the goals and objective of the project (For Science & Research Projects describe Key Management Questions being addressed):**

Reduce Hazardous Fuels on urban intermix/interface lands, improve defensible space for adjoining private lands, move National Forest urban intermix/interface lands from condition class 2 or 3 towards condition class 1

**Describe the anticipated project accomplishments:**

Hazardous Fuels Reduction treatments on 50 acres and fuels planning (CE or EA) for fuels reduction projects in Incline Village.

This project is in addition to current Earmark funded projects in FY 2004. Implementation could begin as soon as October 2004.

**Describe the “readiness” of this project to move forward (Environmental documentation, etc.)**

NEPA work is complete, project is ready to implement, property boundary survey needs to occur on most of project area prior to implementation of fuels reduction treatments

**Describe partnerships for this project. (Include documentation)**

North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (Incline Co-Op Wyden Agreement)  
Nevada Division of Forestry  
GBI – Nevada Conservation Corps

**For Science & Research Projects describe how this project will guide future management activities:**

**Include an 8 ½ X 11 map depicting the project, or research/study area.**

Urban Lot Management  
Hazardous Fuels  
EIP #10183.304



Planned:  
50 acres of hazardous fuels reduction  
NEPA planning for fuels treatments in Incline Village  
Treatment areas are scattered throughout the basin